

## **Stay out of Vancouver Lake health department advises**

Tests reveal a health hazard at Vancouver Lake, Clark County health officer **Alan Melnick** reports. He said this afternoon that routine testing has revealed blue-green algae producing toxins that can be harmful to people and deadly for small pets that drink the water.

The health department is advising no swimming or wading, no wind surfing or sail boarding, no water contact for animals and that precautions be taken when boating or fishing.

The health advisory will remain in effect until toxin levels drop. Earlier this year the lake was closed for a week due to a rise in the blue-green algae.

## **Property values keep climbing in Clark County**

Land values in Clark County have been increasing in value about 2 percent a month for the past 24 months, reports Clark County assessor **Linda Franklin**.

Depending on the location, property values have increased by as much as 75 percent during the period Jan. 1, 2005, through Jan. 1, 2006, Franklin says.

The increases are reflected in notices of value the assessor's office is mailing this week to 113,084 residential property owners. Property value increases amount to 10 to 50 percent on most residential homes as of Jan. 1, 2006, the assessor says.

Increases in property values do not equate to an equal tax hike, Franklin says. The existing total tax levy lid dampens those increases.

The biggest increases in value are found for undeveloped property that is suitable for immediate construction. On average, developable property in the Vancouver urban growth area that sold for \$100,000 an acre at the end of 2004 was selling at \$175,000 by the end of 2005. Buildable property in Yacolt is selling for \$100,000 an acre, on average.

Land values are increasing more rapidly than building values, according to Franklin. View property, especially property with water views, command a 30 percent higher value than those without a view, and if the property fronts on water it is worth an additional 10 percent, Franklin says.

Property owners who have questions about the value of their property should call the assessor's office to talk to a residential appraiser. Most questions can be answered at that level, she says. Property owners also have 60 days to file a petition with the county Board of Equalization to protest their assessments.

Clark County property owners can go online to the assessor's office to find the value of their property and can compare those values with recent sales in their area. Go to <http://gis.clark.wa.gov/imf/imf.jsp?site=mapsonline>, to get individual information.

Franklin says she will make group and individual presentations on property values. For further information, call **397-2092**, extension **4634**.

## **Ann Neuenschwander returns to Partners in Careers**

**Ann Neuenschwander** has returned to Partners in Careers as an employment specialist. Neuenschwander will help develop pre-employment skills for welfare parents with babies less than 12 months old and will provide employment services for persons who are homeless or at risk of being homeless.

Neuenschwander, most recently an instructor at Portland Community College, formerly worked at PIC, a private nonprofit agency serving Clark County job-seekers and employers.

Neuenschwander, a graduate of the University of Oregon, also teaches English to speakers of other languages. She is a former Peace Corps volunteer who was stationed in Costa Rica.

## **Voter registration deadlines looming**

The deadline for receiving voter registration for the Sept. 19 primary election is Saturday, Aug. 19, reports Clark County auditor **Greg Kimsey**.

The deadline for registering in person in the Elections Department office, 1408 Franklin Street, is 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 1.

In addition to nominating candidates from the two major political parties to become candidates at the general election on Nov. 7, primary voters will be presented with eight special election ballot measures.

**People**

Gov. **Chris Gregoire** has been named chair of the Education, Early Education, and WorkForce Committee of the National Governors Association.

**Calendar**

The Vancouver Police Department is showing several vehicles at the Portland International Raceway today during the 4-to7-p.m. Beaches Cruise-In. ⚡ Northwest Bull Riding Championships are at 7:30 p.m. this evening at the Clark County Fair. Admission is free with paid admission to the fair. The county fair continues through Sunday, Aug. 13. ⚡ A neighborhood meeting, to discuss the St. Joseph Parish Sausage Festival, is being held at 6:30 p.m. this evening in City Hall. The meeting is being facilitated by Vancouver's Community Mediation Services.

**Wednesday headlines**

[Parks plan in county parks district faces shortfall--Columbian, \*\*Jeffrey Mize\*\*](#)

[Higher costs for parks jeopardizes future sites--Oregonian, \*\*Bill Stewart\*\*](#)

[Public Utilities' plan to help BPA with line of credit may result in lower wholesale power charges--Columbian, \*\*Erik Robinson\*\*](#)

[Oregon lottery sales hit a billion mega bucks--Oregonian, \*\*Jeff Mapes\*\*](#)

[Oregon coast a "dead zone"--Seattle Times, \*\*Hal Bernton\*\*](#)

[Israel has deadliest day of war--USA TODAY, AP](#)

[Israeli cabinet backs wider ground raids in Lebanon--New York Times, \*\*Steven Erlanger\*\*](#)

[Three Americans killed in action in Iraq--USA TODAY, AP](#)

[Lieberman goes independent--Washington Post, \*\*William Branigin, Dan Balz, and Shailagh Murray\*\*](#)

**Wednesday on the air**

**Seattle Mariners at Tampa Bay (live)**—1:30 p.m. FSN, KKAD

**Portland Beavers at Iowa (live)**—5 p.m. KKAD

**Tampa Bay at Seattle Mariners (live)**—7 p.m. FSN, KFXN

Cooking With Class—8 p.m. FVTV

Evergreen Public Schools Annexation Meeting (7/12)—8 p.m. CVTV

Marshall Community Center Renovation Groundbreaking—8:30 p.m. CVTV

City Minutes (7/23)—8:50 p.m. CVTV

Columbia River Crossing Task Force (7/12)—9:30 p.m. CVTV

**Town Tabloids and the Weather**

**Steve Harris** making the grade. ⚡ **Gwen McDonagh** relaying scholastic success. ⚡ **Eric Olmsted** following the trail. ⚡ **Dan West** discussing 32 points. ⚡ **Gwenda Morrison** gracefully making contacts. ⚡ **Wednesday**, hazy, sunny 74. **Thursday**, mostly cloudy, misty, 76. **Friday**, partly sunny, 75.